Mr. President : I think it is one lakh.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* When Pandit Madan Mohan Malavia came to this State ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is one lakh.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* May I know whether there was a proposal from the Government of Madras that Cochin should make a contribution because their students also are coming into the Madras Medical Colleges when they were expanding their equipment. Is it because that proposal was turned down, that our number of admission into the College was restricted ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* The Madras Medical College is a very old institution and they had no difficulty in admitting students from Cochin State in large numbers. In the case of the Benares Hindu University the Government gave this lakh of rupees at the time of its inception when Pandit Madan Mohan Malavia went round collecting funds. We had no occasion to consider the question of a donation to the Madras Medical College whereas Pandit Malavia came down here and requested for a donation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* Was there not a proposal before this Government from the Madras Government ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Not that I know of and there was no kind of retaliation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* Reaction.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* Not at all.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* Are the Goverament aware of a recent order of the Madras Government distributing seats in the Engineering College on a linguistic basis ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* As we have our own village-war and taluk-war difficulties they also will have their own district-war, taluk-war and linguistic difficulties.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* The percentage is only 7 for Malabar.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* To resume the trend of my questions, may I know whether there is hope for starting a college here? The Hon'ble Member for Education gave two reasons, not mainly a question of cost. The other reasons cannot prevail. I presume that we can afford to go in for that ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* No.

Mr. President: The question of starting a full-fledged Enginering College in the State at present could not be considered. It will be an extremely difficult proposition and the equipment required will be unobtainable at present. But the idea of developing the present technical training centre at Trichur into a technological school may be considered. I am afraid I cannot say much about this for security reasons. But the present is not a suitable time for starting anything on a big scale. So far as Madras is concerned—I speak subject to correction we get more seats in the Engineering College because the course has been shortened and so far as the Medical College is concerned, we will consider the question of asking the Madras government to increase the number of seats. I have also asked the C. M. O. to look into the matter to see whether we cannot get more seats in the Medical College.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the Government thought about starting a medical college ?

Rao Sahib I. N.Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* No, Sir.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* What will be the cost.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Madical Officar) :* Not leass than 50 lakhs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In the light of the very valuable and helpful observation made by the Hon'ble President may I request you, sir, that what is contained in that statement may be attempted to be put through in the course of September and October. That means go forward without the least delay.

Mr. President: It has already been explained to the House that it is not a convenient season. Now our men are getting technical training at the expense of the Government of India. When that scheme comes to an end will be the time when we would wish to take up the question of establishing a school of technology. At the present time hundreds of our candidates are being trained at the expense of the Government of India for work in factories and for technical work with the army.

Election of a member to the Education Advisory Committee

Only one nomination to the Eduction Advisory Committee has been received. That is of Mr. Petta. Mr. Joesph Petta is duly declarad elected.

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Tomorrow is New Moon day. Is it the wish of the Hon'ble Members that we shall meet at the usual hour or a little later?

(Some voices: At the usual hour).

Then we will meet at the usual time.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (cont.)

1 Land Revenue—Rs. 3,58,296

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 3,58,296 under "Land Revenue". There is no special feature in this year's budget and therefore I am not making any speech. As and when the cut motions are moved I shall answer them.

CUT MOTION No. 6

Excluding certain agriculturists from payment of land-tax

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I rise to move "*to reduce the allotment of Rs. 90,979 for establishmet—Salaries—by Re. 1.*' The object of my motion is *to discuss the justice and expediency of excluding agriculturists getting an income of Rs. 600 and less per annum from payment of Land Revenue.* I may submit before the House that my intention to raise a discussion on this issue is not based purely on ideological grounds or on theoretical grounds nor is it my desire to jump into Utopia irrespective of considerations of practicability. I have only to put two short questions on this issue. The first is as to why are you excluding people in other professions from payment of income when their income is below Rs. 2,000? The answer is clear that the Government consider that the persons in other occupations do reqire about 2,000 rupees for their maintenance and daily necessaries of life, so that they may contribute to the good of the body economic by their exertions. I raise this question. Are the Government not aware that the agricultural profession, if I may say so, is more important than any other profession in the world? I need not go any further on this. It is plain. Will a trader get on without agriculture? Will anybody as for that matter live a day without agriculture? Therefore I can boldly assert that agriculture is perhaps the basic industry and the basic profession in the whole world. If that is so why is it that there is no consideration for the maintenance of an agriculturist? An agriculturist who owns two paras of paddy field and their number is legion in these days of fragmentations of holdings may not be making more than 10 paras per annum. He will not make more than 4 paras of paddy per para of paddy field. The late Mr. Sankara Menon's report will support me when I say that and if it is 8 paras of paddy he gets only 10 rupees according to the Government rate. Sir, Government are demanding from such an agriculturist one-fourth of that income. Rs. 2—8—0 out of Rs. 10 putting it at one rupee 4 as. per para of paddy. If such is the incidence of revenue in the State I say it is unjustifiable. If the understanding is that because the agriculturist is using public land for raising his income, I ask this question wheter a trader is not using public utilities of the State for maintaining his trade? Does he not require the roads to take things to his go-down, does he not require the backwaters to carry his goods? These are common property. Even the trader requires the backwaters for taking his merchandise. If he requires the roads and the backwaters to take his merchandise to his go-down and to the bazar, is he not also bound to pay some tax? Should you not collect 2½ rupees from a trader who makes Rs. 10. That is the second point that arises. Do you not consider the encouragement of the agricultural industry as the most important thing that is possible? Has it not been recognised all over the world? Is not this taxation inequitable?

The next statement I have to make is this, that this is one of the programmes, constructive programmes, of the Indian National Congress, passed unanimously in the Lucknow or Tripuri Congres that a bare subsistence minimum should be given to the agriculturists free from all taxation. That was also the subject of a Bill brought before this House by that strong advocate of the agriculturists, I mean, Mr. Ibrahim the Agriculturists' Bare Subsistence Bill. There is a lot of weight behind it. It was not considered properly.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* But then you opposed it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Not the principle never, unless I were drunk. Mathai sober will never oppose that measure.

Therefore, Sir, with these remarks I would place this most important matter for the earnest consideration and discussion of this House.

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